



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

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Camp Reunite Partners with Wisconsin DOC for Special Holiday Deliveries

More than 100 children receive gifts from incarcerated parent

(TAYCHEEDAH, Wis.) -- The non-profit group, Camp Reunite, and its staff members teamed up with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) to deliver some special holiday gifts over the weekend.

The Saturday and Sunday deliveries wrapped up six days of stops across eastern Wisconsin, delivering gifts to children from their incarcerated parents.

“Providing gifts donated from Kapco’s Kids 2 Kids Christmas has been a blessing for the campers,” said Camp Reunite Co-Founder Andrew Gappa. “Seeing their smiles, filled with excitement, brings hope to their holidays and makes the holiday season extra special.”

The volunteers made 53 stops and delivered 375 gifts to 125 children of individuals currently serving a sentence at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution or Taycheedah Correctional Institution. The gifts ranged from basketballs, to art supplies and board games.

“Seeing the joy on the kids’ faces when they received their gifts from Camp Reunite and their moms is not something we will forget,” said Jaime Gyr, a social worker at Taycheedah Correctional Institution. “We have seen over and over the positive impact this camp has on the kids and their moms. We are so thankful for being part of this wonderful program!”

The gift deliveries were an extension of Camp Reunite, a program that offers trauma-informed camp activities for kids ages 8-17 who have a parent incarcerated in the Wisconsin Correctional System. The program started in 2018 at Taycheedah Correctional Institution, a part of the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System, as a week-long summer camp that explored ways to help kids cope with separation from their mother. It included two extended visits to see their incarcerated parent.

A winter version of Camp Reunite was later added to the calendar in December, and the program was also expanded to a men’s institution, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, for the first time this summer. Both the summer and winter camps in 2020 have switched to virtual visitation with the parent, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the gifts, 97 kids received camp supplies ahead of the virtual Camp Reunite in which they will participate December 28-30. Parents at Taycheedah and Kettle Moraine Correctional institutions will join their children for activities like scavenger hunts and a movie watch party.

If you'd like to donate to Camp Reunite and help expand its mission, please connect with staff by going to www.campreunite.org.

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